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COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Morale Problem in Albania	DATE DISTR.	1 st January 1955
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The morale among government officials, army officers, party members and the intelligentsia in Albania is quite low. The people are subjected to many abuses and their economic plight is demoralizing.
2. An army officer who was a loyal Communist and who had never entertained the idea of defecting to the West, allowed himself to be captured by Yugoslav soldiers while on a clandestine military mission in Yugoslavia because his enthusiasm for Communism in Albania had waned and he decided that it was not worth fighting and dying for. Abuses in high places, the poor standard of living endured by his family and the miserable conditions of the mass of people contributed to his decision to surrender rather than fight. There are still many Communists, but they have lost faith in the promises of Communism and in its system of government.
3. There are many officers in the Sigurimi (Albanian I.S.) who are at heart decent men, who help the people in a quiet way and who overlook small offenses committed by the people.
4. Propaganda directed to Albania should make a distinction between real and nominal Communists. By all means, let Mehmet Shehu and his entourage be attacked; but it is an error to attack all Communists and all government officials indiscriminately. The latter group should be appealed to and induced to see the realities of the situation in which they live and urged to change its ways.
5. Ordinary officers and officials, whether party members or not, must be given

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Approved For Release 2007/11/01 : CIA-RDP80-00810A005600130006-3

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some hope for the future. They must be assured that they will not all be considered by the West as persons to be prosecuted and liquidated after liberation. They should be told that if they change their tack they will be acceptable to the West and after liberation, will be left free to carry on in a free Albania. Their present discontent should be exploited and compared with the hopes of the free world until their faith in the present system has been completely undermined and they are driven to take action to improve their lot.

6. An internal revolution in Albania will only be possible when the morale of the Communist Party member has been broken and when the people's faith in the system has been lost. One thing must be kept in mind when viewing the Albanian scene. Since World War II, Albanians have become politically minded and it will be difficult to impose on them the type of regime which governed prior to the war. If the people want King Zog, or the Balli Kombetar or Mustafa Kruja, they will vote for them, but these political leaders and parties must realize that the old ways have gone and that they must introduce enlightened principles of government in a liberated Albania. Meanwhile, it is most important to bring unity among the Albanian exiles. They must concentrate their efforts on a single purpose and not dissipate their energies in quarrels among themselves.
7. The people in Albania know of the existence of the National Committee for a Free Albania - NCFa and have hope in its program. The authorities frequently attack the Committee. The leaflets sent by the NCFa reach the people both in the towns and in the country, although the police take prompt measures to collect and destroy the leaflets. These leaflets are of value and the cartoons are recalled long after they have been read. It is important to remember, however, that the Albanian people must not be given the erroneous impression that the West plans immediate liberation of the country when in point of fact no immediate action is contemplated. Misleading the people only breeds disillusionment as it has already done in some instances.
8. The government makes every effort to build up the morale in the army. Recruits are made to sing while they march and sports events are encouraged. Discipline is strict and the army gives the general appearance of being a well organized, well disciplined unit. In fact, however, morale is low. Conscripts are only concerned with the day they will be released. The economic condition of their families is aggravated by their absence. They are given no leave and are badgered constantly with political propaganda at meetings and lectures. Soldiers are discontent with their lot and many have gone AWOL although of late, the number of soldiers AWOL has decreased. These deserters are mostly men from Northern Albania or from the frontier areas.
9. The organization and training of the men in the army is good. A large number of officers and regular non commissioned officers are good soldiers and are enthusiastic about their work and ready to make any sacrifices. Despite the fact that most conscripts do not share this enthusiasm, the army is a good fighting organization and would give a good account of itself if called to fight for the country.
10. Many army officers who were members of the party were enthusiastic in their support of the war against Greece in 1949. There were also many deserters. A group of 50 soldiers left the front during the fighting but they were caught before they could scatter.
11. Given certain circumstances, however, if the men in the ranks saw the possibility of a radical change in the political situation, they might lend their support to the change. In such circumstances, these soldiers could be expected to desert in considerable numbers and return to their homes.

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